

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO
003498.P054

PATENT
U.S. 09/671,960

Remarks/ Arguments

In response to the Office Action mailed November 15, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the claims. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of Claim 2, 8, and 9.

Claims 1-9 remain.

Claims 1 and 8 are being amended.

Claims 10-14 are being added.

Claims 1, and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Raychaudhuri* (U.S. Patent 5,638,371). Claims 2, 8, and 9 stand objected-to as being based on a rejected base claim but are otherwise allowable. Applicant has selectively amended the claims to include the allowable features of Claims 2 or 8 to obviate the rejections of Claims 1, and 3-7,

Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of former objected-to Claim 2, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 1, and associated dependent Claims 3-7, should now be allowable.

Claim 8 has been placed in independent form with the inclusion of the features of Claim 1, before amendment. Additional dependent Claims 10-14, which include features corresponding to dependent Claims 3-7, have been added to dependent from amended Claim 8. Claims 8-14 should now be allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims as they now stand are patentably distinct over the art cited during the prosecution thereof.

With the addition of no new claims, no additional filing fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 20-0821 of Thompson & Knight LLP.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO
003498.P054

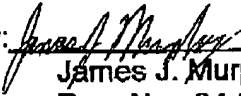
PATENT
U.S. 09/671,960

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (214) 969 - 1749.

Respectfully submitted,

Thompson & Knight LLP

Attorneys for Applicant

By: 
James J. Murphy
Reg. No. 34,503

1700 Pacific Avenue
Suite 3300
Dallas, TX. 75201-4693
Date: February 8, 2006